Loans for setting up Agro and Rural Industries

*70. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the people in rural areas in obtaining loans from Nationalised Banks for setting up Agro and Rural Industries;

(b) whether Government would introduce a scheme for the disbursement of loans to the needy without procedural wrangles by the nearest Nationalised Banks; and

(c) the details of financial support provided for setting up Agro and Rural Industries at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal. However, regular interaction with banks are held to sort out the problems, if any, in the disbursal of loans.

(c) Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme of the KVIC, loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs is provided to any individual registered institution for setting up agro and rural industries. Under the REGP scheme, the KVIC provides margin money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the project above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs, rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of SC/ST/OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/institution and for hill border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs but above this amount and upto Rs. 25 lakhs it is 30% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the remaining cost of the project. Under this scheme, the beneficiary's contribution is 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST/other weaker sections, beneficiary's contribution is 5%

of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks, etc.

Base camps of insurgent groups in bangladesh

*71. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large numebr of insurgent groups operating in different North-Eastern States are having their base camps in Bangladesh;

(b) whether Bangladesh Government has been approached not to give shelter to these insurgent outfits in Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, what has been the response from Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh at various levels, most recently during the Foreign Secretary level talks held in Dhaka on 29-30th April, 2003 and during the recent visit of the Extenal Affairs Minister to Dhaka on 14-15th July, 2003 for the 6th meeting of the Joint Economic Commission.

(c) The Government of Bangladesh continues to reiterate its commitment not to allow its territory to be used for activities prejudicial to the interest of India.

Economic growth rate of States

*72. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the economic growth rate per annum in the last one decade in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Jharkhand; and

(b) the utilisation of funds in the above States during the above mentioned period?